

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 25, 2001 with claims 1-19. Claim 7 was canceled in a previous response dated March 16, 2005. Claims 1-6 and 8-19 are currently pending in the application, prior to the foregoing amendments. Claims 1 and 16-19 are the independent claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 16 contained allowable subject matter, while claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

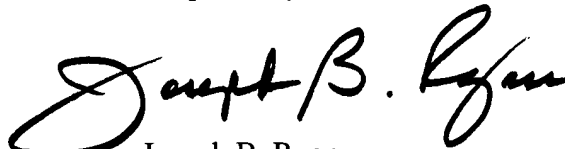
Applicant initially notes that claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, claim 16 was rewritten in independent form in the March 16, 2005 response. Accordingly, claim 16 is already an independent claim, and the objection should be withdrawn.

In this response, independent claim 1 has been canceled, and dependent claims 2-6 and 8-15 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 16. Also, claim 16 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Accordingly, claims 2-6 and 8-15 are believed to be allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 16.

Independent claims 17-19 have each been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16. Accordingly, these independent claims are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Joseph B. Ryan
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 37,922
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-7517